

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 152143
ORIGIN ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: SOLARI YRIGOYEN'S CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY

SUMMARY: FORMER ARGENTINE SENATOR HIPOLITO SOLARI YRIGOYEN MET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ALMOST 45 MINUTES ON JUNE 28. SENATOR EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY, STATING THAT BY THESE NORMS, COMBINED WITH MORAL SENSE - AND BY NOT PURSUING ECONOMIC GAIN - U.S. IS SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF DEMOCRATIC FRONTIERS. RESUME OF CONVERSATION FOLLOWS.

1. FORMER ARGENTINE SENATOR HIPOLITO SOLARI YRIGOYEN IS IN THE UNITED STATES AS THE GUEST OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA. HE WILL BE HERE FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK AND WILL HAVE MET DEPUTY SECRETARY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR DERIAN, SENATORS CHURCH
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 152143

AND KENNEDY, AS WELL AS OLD FRIEND, ALEJANDRO ORFILA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS.

2. SOLARI GAVE PRINCIPAL CREDIT FOR HIS RELEASE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FACT THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA WANTED TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO VENEZUELA. HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS

GREAT PRESSURE FROM UNITED STATES, FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND FORMER GERMAN CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT. SOLARI NOTED THAT HIS DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC

PRINCIPLES AND HUMAN RIGHTS IS WELL KNOWN AS IS HIS
CONDEMNATION OF EXTREMISM AND ABUSES OF POWER.

3. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED HIS AWARENESS OF SOLARI'S
RECORD ON BEHALF OF FREEDOM AND PRAISED THE COURAGE
SHOWN BY THE SENATOR - A COURAGE DEMONSTRATED UNDER
CONDITIONS MOST OF US DO NOT HAVE TO FACE. HE SAID THAT HE
HAD WISHED TO MEET SOLARI BECAUSE OF HIS WELL-
"KNOWN REPUTATION, BUT ALSO BECAUSE
IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO ALL
SEGMENTS OF INFLUENCE, WHETHER THEY ARE IN POWER OR NOT.
WE MUST TALK TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR
DEDICATION TO THE VIRTUES WE ADMIRE.

4. SOLARI SAID THAT PRESIDENT'S POSITION AND DEPUTY
SECRETARY'S FILLED HIM WITH ENCOURAGEMENT. THE HISTORY
OF U.S. FRIENDSHIP FOR DICTATORS IS LEFT BEHIND AND IS A
SOURCE OF HOPE. "WE SEE THIS NEW POLICY REACHING OUR PEOPLES
OVER THE GOVERNMENT." SOLARI WENT ON, THERE ARE
VOICES IN ARGENTINA TRYING TO CANCEL OUT THIS GREAT
POLICY. SOME ARE SAYING THE U.S. MAY BECOME ISOLATED FROM
LATIN AMERICA. "ON THE CONTRARY, THE PEOPLE KNOW
INTUITIVELY THAT THIS (POLICY) HELPS THEM." THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 152143

GOVERNMENT SAYS IT HAS TO ENGAGE IN COUNTERTERRORISM TO
FIGHT TERRORISM. THE VOICE OF THE UNITED STATES IN
GRENADA WAS CLEAR AND MORE NEED NOT BE SAID. THESE
REGIMES CLAIM THAT CHANGES WILL COME; THEY WILL NOT.
FRANCO CLAIMED FROM 1945 UNTIL HIS DEATH THAT CHANGE
WOULD COME BUT HIS REGIME REMAINED AUTOCRATIC. SOLARI
STATED THAT ARGENTINE POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD BE LEGALIZED
AND FREE TO OPERATE AGAIN; PRISONERS WITHOUT CHARGES
AGAINST THEM SHOULD BE FREED; THE STATE OF SIEGE SHOULD BE
LIFTED; THERE SHOULD BE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; AND THERE
SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF
DEMOCRACY CULMINATING IN ELECTIONS. THIS CANNOT HAPPEN
OVERNIGHT BUT UNEQUIVOCAL STEPS ARE NECESSARY. "WE ASK
THE U.S. TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS POLICY AND NOT BE TAKEN IN
BY FALSE PROMISES."

5. HE NEXT OUTLINED STEPS WHICH THE U.S. MIGHT TAKE. HE
CALLED FOR A NEW MILITARY POLICY UNDER WHICH WE WOULD GIVE
SUPPORT ONLY TO ARMED FORCES THAT RESPECT CONSTITUTIONS.

NO TORTURERS OR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS SHOULD BOAST IN
THEIR BIOGRAPHIES THAT THEY ATTENDED SCHOOLS IN THE
UNITED STATES OR CANAL ZONE." BILATERAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT
SHOULD GO TO DEMOCRACIES OR TO COUNTRIES POINTING IN
THAT DIRECTION. MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE
CHANNELED IN SAME WAY EXCEPT FOR BASIC NEEDS OF PEOPLES,
SUCH AS POTABLE WATER, AND DISASTER RELIEF. SOLARI

EXPRESSED HIS JOY TO TALK TO DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS.
WE (LATIN AMERICAN DEMOCRATS) WANT TO BE VALUED BY THE
UNITED STATES. THE COMMUNISTS, WHOM WE DISAGREE WITH,
ALWAYS APPRECIATE THEIR OWN. "YOUR POLICY HAS GREAT
MORAL STRENGTH."

6. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THANKED SOLARI FOR HIS COMPRE-
HENSIVE STATEMENT, NOTING HIS PLEASURE THAT NOTES WERE
TAKEN OF SOLARI'S REMARKS.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 152143

7. PREPARING TO TAKE HIS LEAVE, SOLARI ADDED, THERE IS
AN IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE THE ARGENTINE MAJORITY
IS NEITHER TOTALITARIAN RIGHT NOR EXTREMIST LEFT. ALL
THE PARTIES ARE FORMING A CIVILIAN FRONT FOR DEMOCRACY -
NOT AN ELECTORAL FRONT.

8. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CONTINUED THE CONVERSATION,
SAYING WE ARE ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE
OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. WE WILL BE CRITICIZED FOR
OUR ACTIONS AND MAY SUFFER ADVERSE RESULTS BUT WE ARE
DETERMINED TO GO IN THIS DIRECTION. SPEAKING TO A
FELLOW LAWYER, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT COUNTRIES
HAD TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM BUT THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO
DEAL WITH IT FIRMLY AND WITHIN THE LAW. OBEDIENCE TO
THE RULE OF LAW MUST BE MAINTAINED. TERRORISM CANNOT
SERVE AS AN EXCUSE FOR COUNTERTERRORISM.

9. IN ARGENTINA, SOLARI REMARKED, THERE ARE 15,000
PRISONERS. ONLY 20 ARE TERRORISTS AND THEY WERE
CAPTURED TWO YEARS AGO. TODAY, TERRORISTS AND SUSPECTS
ARE EXECUTED SUMMARILY. "I DO NOT WANT TO WASTE TIME
ON MY CASE."

10. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT MS. DERIAN HAD
GIVEN HIM A FULL REPORT AND THAT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH
SOLARI. HE THEN INQUIRED ABOUT SOLARI'S FAMILY.

11. THE FORMER SENATOR SAID THAT HIS WIFE WILL BE
RETURNING TO ARGENTINA TO TRY TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN OUT.
ONE PARENT MUST BE PRESENT BEFORE AN ARGENTINE MINOR
MAY LEAVE THE COUNTRY. SOLARI IS FEARFUL THAT ONE SON
WHO IS DUE TO PERFORM HIS MILITARY SERVICE MIGHT NOT BE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 152143

ALLOWED TO LEAVE DESPITE A REQUEST FOR A DEFERRAL; IT
MAY BE DENIED. IF IT IS, SOLARI SAID HE WILL TRY TO GET
SON OUT THROUGH URUGUAY OR BRAZIL. HE RECALLED THAT THE
SON OF ARGENTINE LABOR LEADER ONGARO (PHONETIC) WAS
KILLED WHILE PERFORMING HIS MILITARY SERVICE. ONCE THE

WHOLE FAMILY IS ABROAD, SOLARI COMMENTED THAT GOA MIGHT TAKE ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS BUT THEY WOULD BE FREE.

12. ASKED FOR HIS ADVICE CONCERNING USG-GOA RELATIONS, SOLARI REPLIED THAT OUR POLICY IS POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE. NONETHELESS, HE FELT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WOULD TRY TO INCITE NATIONALISM AGAINST THE U.S. THE U.S. MUST ACT CAUTIOUSLY SO THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS TO THINK THERE IS INTERVENTION. MRS. CARTER'S OMISSION OF ARGENTINA WAS A GOOD IDEA; NO ONE CAN CHARGE INTERVENTION. HE CONTINUED THAT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY EXPECTED PRESIDENT FORD'S REELECTION; THEY MUST NOW COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE "DEMOCRATIC" GOVERNMENT IF THEY WISH TO AVOID ISOLATION. IF NOT, OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS IN ARGENTINA WILL ACT TO TURN ARGENTINA TOWARD DEMOCRACY. SOLARI ADVISED THAT WE ACT PRAGMATICALLY AND SUPPORT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STEPS IN ARGENTINA TOWARD DEMOCRACY. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. NEEDS AN EMBASSY THAT IS PERMEATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S THINKING. HE REPEATED THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE WITH DEMOCRATIC LEADERS. WITH THESE NORMS AND A MORAL SENSE, AND NOT BY PURSUING ECONOMIC GAIN, THE U.S. WILL SUPPORT A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA AND EXTEND DEMOCRACY'S FRONTIERS IN LATIN AMERICA. VANCE

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